

REMARKS

Claims 8, and 10-16 are currently pending in the application. Claim 8 is amended. Claim 9 is cancelled. No new matter is presented. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9, 11-13, 15, and 16 contain allowable subject matter. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request the favorable consideration and allowance of claims 8, and 10-16.

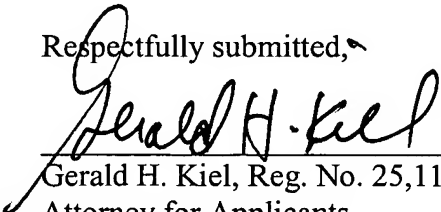
The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Butcher. Claim 8 is amended to include the allowable features of claim 9. The Examiner has indicated that claim 9 recites patentable subject matter. Therefore, in view of the amendment to claim 8, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 and the allowance of all dependent claims.

Claims 8, 10, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) being unpatentable over Stokes in view of Bates. As mentioned above, claim 8 is amended to include the features of claim 9. Therefore, Applicants request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, 10, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Dependent claims 10-16 are all dependent on independent claim 8. Applicants submit that, as such, claims 10-16 are patentable by virtue of their dependence from independent claim 8, which is believed by the Applicants to define patentable subject matter.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Claim 8 is amended and claim 9 is cancelled. No new matter is presented. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


Gerald H. Kiel, Reg. No. 25,116
Attorney for Applicants
Reed Smith LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Tel. No.: (212) 521-5400
Fax No.: 212-521-5400